



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT

Office of the Chief Privacy Officer

July 5, 2018

Elizabeth France
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005

RE: FOIA Request No. 18-01878-F

Dear Ms. France:

This letter is an interim response to your request for information pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, dated May 11, 2018 and received in this office on May 14, 2018. Your request was forwarded to the appropriate offices to search for documents that may be responsive to your request: Office of the Secretary (OS), Office of the Under Secretary (OUS), Office of the Deputy Secretary (ODS), Federal Student Aid (FSA), Office of Postsecondary Education (OPE), Office for Civil Rights (OCR), Office of Elementary & Secondary Education (OESE), Office of Career, Technical & Adult Education (OCTAE), Office of Special Education Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO), Office of Chief Information Officer (OCIO), Office of General Counsel (OGC), Office of the Inspector General (OIG) Office of Legislation & Congressional Affairs (OLCA), Office of Communication & Outreach (OCO) and Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development (OPEPD).

You requested:

- All records reflecting communications (including emails, email attachments, text messages, messages on messaging platforms (such as Slack, GChat or Google Hangouts, Lync, Skype, or WhatsApp), telephone call logs, calendar invitations/entries, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational material, draft legislation, talking points, any handwritten or electronic notes taken during any oral communications, summaries of any oral communications, or other materials) between any political appointee at your agency and any of the following:
 - Michael Cohen
 - Essential Consultants
 - Corey Lewandowski
 - Jason Osborne
 - Mike Rubino
 - Barry Bennett
 - Turnberry Solutions LLC
 - Avenue Strategies (avenuestrategies.com).

Attached to this email are 10 pages of documents that are responsive to your request. The documents provided are:

- Communications of Political Appointees from the Office of the Secretary.

However, certain information has been withheld according to FOIA exemptions (b)(6) as specified below:

- Records or portions of records relating to personal information is exempt pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §552 (b)(6) of the FOIA. Disclosure of this information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

Also, on June 12, 2018 OIG sent you a final response. In addition, the staff in ODS, OUS, OCIO, OCR, OCTAE, OPE, and OPEPD informed the FOIA Services Center that, after a thorough search of their files, they were unable to locate any documents that were responsive to your request.

At this time, the Department is continuing to process your request and your FOIA request case file remains open. It will not close until the Department provides you with a response regarding outstanding responsive documents. Our final release letter will contain information related to your appeal rights of the agency's decisions.

If you have any questions, please contact the FOIA Service Center at (202) 401-8365 or via e-mail at EDFOIAManager@ed.gov.

Sincerely,

Arthur Caliguiran

Arthur Caliguiran
FOIA Analyst
FOIA Service Center

Attachment

Subject: (none)

Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 at 12:45:18 PM Eastern Standard Time

From: Michael Cohen

To: Venable, Joshua

Josh,

Can you please call me as I need to speak with Betsy DeVoss. Thank you.

--

Yours,

Michael D. Cohen, Esq.

Personal Attorney to

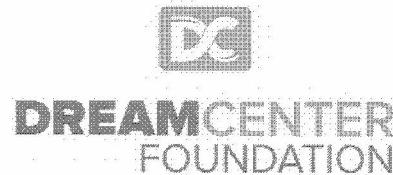
President Donald J. Trump

(b)(6)



Barry Bennett

From: Barry Bennett
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2017 2:27 PM
To: Simmons, Lee (Dougie)
Subject: Thank you let me know. Travel safe. B
Attachments: Dream Center Foundation 2nd Letter to Secretary Devos.pdf



June 23, 2017

Ms. Betsy DeVos, Secretary of Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20202

Re: Dream Center Foundation's Non-Profit Acquisition of EDMC's
Art Institutes, South University, and Argosy University: Pre-
Acquisition Review Applications to Department of Education for
OPE ID# 02117100, 0092700, 008877800, 01303900

Dear Secretary DeVos:

For the last six months, we have been working with the Department of Education and regional accreditation bodies in the United States to accomplish saving the jobs of 5,000 full-time faculty, administrators, and staff (plus 9,000 adjunct faculty) and the academic career path of almost 50,000 college students through our "acquisition" of South University, Argosy University and 31 Art Institutes across the United States.

We are so pleased that in the last 2 weeks our change of ownership has been approved by the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS) for South University and Art Institutes in their region and we completed the process with Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for Argosy University and the Art Institutes in their region.

Our CEO, Brent Richardson, our founder, Pastor Matthew Barnett and myself, respectfully request an opportunity for 15 minutes of your time, anywhere or anytime for a presentation to share with you our vision to transform these three for-profit university systems at 62 campuses across the United States to private non-profit education that will help people live better lives, add thousands of new jobs and provide our current and future students with the job skills to grow the economy.

Sincerely,

DREAM CENTER FOUNDATION

(b)(6)

Randall K. Barton, Managing Director



Barry Bennett

From: Barry Bennett
Sent: Tuesday, July 25, 2017 9:25 AM
To: Simmons, Lee (Dougie)

Any word for my friends at The Dream Center? Sorry to bug

Sent from my iPhone

Barry Bennett

From: Barry Bennett
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 7:48 PM
To: Simmons, Lee (Dougie)
Attachments: Document (18).pdf

A note for Dr Wayne Johnson on the for profit schools issue. I am told it will be helpful. Hope all is well.

Barry

Sent from my iPhone

Here is what gets the deal done:

Company leaves \$85 million of their \$225 million in place as the Department's request for a Letter of Credit for 2 years. The company pays all the costs. Company gets back balance of LoC.

The Department makes good on its commitment to eliminate all other restrictions.

The Company pays for 10 campuses to be closed. Management teaches out smooth landing.

Our investor puts up \$25 million cash for Operating Capital.

The Department ignores the requirement of Opening Day balance sheet because of LoC.

Our investor provides capital and our management team cooperate with the Department in a partnership for the 800+ other schools in trouble with one million students at risk.

The Department can order all of this to happen...specifically Dr. Wayne Johnson. **He should meet with Brent now.**

LeeD.Simmons@ed.gov

From: LeeD.Simmons@ed.gov
Sent: Thursday, September 21, 2017 10:30 PM
To: Barry Bennett
Subject: Re:

Thanks so much, Barry! Will pass on.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 21, 2017, at 7:48 PM, Barry Bennett <barry@avenuestrategies.com> wrote:

A note for Dr Wayne Johnson on the for profit schools issue. I am told it will be helpful. Hope all is well.

Barry

Sent from my iPhone

<Document (18).pdf>

Simmons, Lee (Dougie)

From: Simmons, Lee (Dougie)
Sent: Sunday, January 21, 2018 3:29 PM
To: Barry Bennett
Subject: Re:

Hi Barry! Hope all is well! She is pretty committed on the commencements front already but let me put this forward and I will circle back! Likely won't be able to get back to you until the team is back up and running!

Thanks!

Dougie

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 17, 2018, at 6:44 PM, Barry Bennett <barry@avenuestrategies.com> wrote:

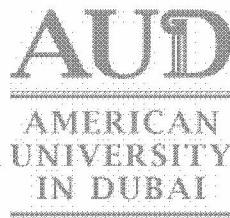
>
> I hope all is well. Hard to think of graduation season is coming but it will be here before we know it. I wanted to see if you thought the Secretary might be interested in a three or four day Commencement Address tour of the Middle East. Particularly Georgetown in Doha and American in Dubai. Maybe throw in a third in Israel to hit all the bases. Could be a great international trip.

>
> Barry

Barry Bennett

From: Barry Bennett
Sent: Monday, March 05, 2018 8:22 AM
To: Simmons, Lee (Dougie)
Attachments: Secretary of Education Devos - Invitation for Keynote Address.pdf

Per our earlier conversation. Barry



January 29, 2018

**The Honorable Secretary of Education Elisabeth Dee DeVos
U.S. Secretary of Education**

Dear Secretary DeVos:

On behalf of the American University in Dubai (AUD), we are honored to invite you to deliver the Keynote Address at our Twenty-First Commencement Exercises, to be held in Dubai, UAE on Sunday, May 20th 2018.

As an American institution in an international setting, we believe it is important to have our students, graduates and alumni hear from and interact with leaders like you who have made an impact in our world today, AUD feels you are a perfect choice.

Our University community admires your personal and professional successes in the fields of education, business and politics. You personify the values and accomplishments we seek for our 21st commencement speaker.

In accepting our invitation you will join an impressive group of distinguished Americans such as: President William Jefferson Clinton; Secretaries of State James Baker, Madeleine Albright and General Colin Powell; Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood; Senator George Mitchell; publisher Steve Forbes; National Security Advisor Sandy Berger; journalists Christiane Amanpour and Seymour Hersh; American Radio Host Lou Dobbs; Congressman Dennis Kucinich; President and Editor in Chief Arianna Huffington; Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa; Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings; and most recently Donald Trump Jr.

As always, the ceremony will be held under the patronage of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and Ruler of Dubai.

AUD is a private, non-sectarian university founded in 1995 and accredited in the US by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). AUD is also licensed, and its programs are accredited, by the UAE Ministry of Education - Higher Education Affairs.

We look forward to favorable feedback and reiterate how delighted the Dubai and AUD Community will be to host you at our most important yearly function, celebrating 21 years of success. We truly hope you will share this special moment with us.

Sincerely,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Stephen G. Franklin, PHD
Chairman of the Governing Board

Lance E. de Masi, PHD
President

Elias N. Bou Saab
*Founder and Executive Vice President
Former Minister of Education and Higher Education,
Lebanon*